

471.345 Uniform Municipal Contracting Law.

Subdivision 1. **Municipality defined.** For purposes of this section, "municipality" means a county, town, city, school district or other municipal corporation or political subdivision of the state authorized by law to enter into contracts.

Subd. 2. **Contract defined.** A "contract" means an agreement entered into by a municipality for the sale or purchase of supplies, materials, equipment or the rental thereof, or the construction, alteration, repair or maintenance of real or personal property.

Subd. 3. **Contracts over \$35,000 for municipalities of less than 2,500 population; \$50,000 for all others.** If the amount of the contract is estimated to exceed \$35,000 for municipalities of less than 2,500 population, or \$50,000 for all others, sealed bids shall be solicited by public notice in the manner and subject to the requirements of the law governing contracts by the particular municipality or class thereof provided that with regard to repairs and maintenance of ditches, bids shall not be required if the estimated amount of the contract does not exceed the amount specified in section [103E.705](#), subdivisions 5, 6, and 7.

Subd. 4. **Contracts from \$10,000 to \$35,000 for municipalities of less than 2,500 population; \$50,000 for all others.** If the amount of the contract is estimated to exceed \$10,000 but not to exceed \$35,000 for municipalities of less than 2,500 population, or \$50,000 for all others, the contract may be made either upon sealed bids or by direct negotiation, by obtaining two or more quotations for the purchase or sale when possible, and without advertising for bids or otherwise complying with the requirements of competitive bidding. All quotations obtained shall be kept on file for a period of at least one year after receipt thereof.

Subd. 5. **Contracts less than \$10,000.** If the amount of the contract is estimated to be \$10,000 or less, the contract may be made either upon quotation or in the open market, in the discretion of the governing body. If the contract is made upon quotation it shall be based, so far as practicable, on at least two quotations which shall be kept on file for a period of at least one year after their receipt.

Subd. 5a. **County or town rental contracts.** If the amount of a county or town contract for the rental of equipment is estimated to be \$60,000 or less, the contract may, in the discretion of the county or town board, be made by direct negotiation by obtaining two or more quotations for the rental when possible and without advertising for bids or otherwise complying with the requirements of competitive bidding. All quotations shall be kept on file for a period of at least one year after their receipt.

Subd. 6. **Applicability of other laws.** The purpose

of this section is to establish for all municipalities, uniform dollar limitations upon contracts which shall or may be entered into on the basis of competitive bids, quotations or purchase or sale in the open market. To the extent inconsistent with this purpose, all laws governing contracts by a particular municipality or class thereof are superseded. In all other respects such laws shall continue applicable.

Subd. 7. **Minimum labor standards.** Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any municipality from adopting rules, regulations, or ordinances which establish the prevailing wage rate as defined in section [177.42](#), as a minimum standard for wages and which establish the hours and working conditions prevailing for the largest number of workers engaged in the same class of labor within the area as a minimum standard for a contractor's employees which must be agreed to by any contractor before the contractor may be awarded any contract for the furnishing of any labor, material, supplies, or service.

Subd. 8. **Procurement from economically disadvantaged persons.** For purposes of this subdivision, the following terms shall have the meanings herein ascribed to them:

(a) "Small targeted group business" means businesses designated under section [16C.16](#).

(b) "Business entity" means an entity organized for profit, including an individual, partnership, corporation, joint venture, association, or cooperative.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit any municipality from adopting a resolution, rule, regulation, or ordinance which on an annual basis designates and sets aside for awarding to small targeted group businesses a percentage of the value of its anticipated total procurement of goods and services, including construction, and which uses either a negotiated price or bid contract procedure in the awarding of a procurement contract under a set-aside program as allowed in this subdivision, provided that any award based on a negotiated price shall not exceed by more than five percent the municipality's estimated price for the goods and services if they were purchased on the open market and not under the set-aside program.

Subd. 9. Repealed, 1990 c 549 s 3

Subd. 10. **Shared hospital or ambulance service purchasing.** Supplies, materials, or equipment to be used in the operation of a hospital licensed under sections [144.50](#) to [144.56](#) or an ambulance service licensed under chapter 144E that are purchased or leased under a shared service purchasing arrangement whereby more than one hospital or ambulance service purchases supplies, materials, or equipment with one or more other hospitals or ambulance services either through one of the hospitals or ambulance services or through another entity, may be purchased without regard to the competitive bidding requirements of this section, if the following conditions are

met:

(1) the hospital's or ambulance service's governing authority authorizes the arrangement;

(2) the shared services purchasing program purchases items available from more than one source on the basis of competitive bids or competitive quotations of prices; and

(3) the arrangement authorizes the hospital's or ambulance service's governing authority or its representatives to review the purchasing procedures to determine compliance with these requirements.

Subd. 11. **Fuel contracts for generation of municipal power.** Notwithstanding the amount of the contract, any contract entered into by a municipality for the purchase of fuel required for the generation of power from municipal power plants shall be governed by subdivision 4.

Subd. 12. **Procurement from rehabilitation facilities.** Nothing in this section prohibits a municipality from adopting a resolution, rule, regulation, or ordinance that on an annual basis designates and sets aside for awarding to rehabilitation facilities as described in section [268A.06](#) a percentage of the value of its anticipated total procurement of goods and services, including construction, and which uses either a negotiated price or bid contract procedure in the awarding of a procurement contract under a set-aside program as allowed in this subdivision, provided that any award based on a negotiated price shall not exceed by more than five percent the municipality's estimated price for the goods and services if they were purchased on the open market and not under the set-aside program.

Subd. 13. **Energy efficiency projects.** The following definitions apply to this subdivision.

(a) "Energy conservation measure" means a training program or facility alteration designed to reduce energy consumption or operating costs and includes:

(1) insulation of the building structure and systems within the building;

(2) storm windows and doors, caulking or weatherstripping, multiglazed windows and doors, heat absorbing or heat reflective glazed and coated window and door systems, additional glazing, reductions in glass area, and other window and door system modifications that reduce energy consumption;

(3) automatic energy control systems;

(4) heating, ventilating, or air conditioning system modifications or replacements;

(5) replacement or modifications of lighting fixtures to

increase the energy efficiency of the lighting system without increasing the overall illumination of a facility, unless an increase in illumination is necessary to conform to the applicable state or local building code for the lighting system after the proposed modifications are made;

(6) energy recovery systems;

(7) cogeneration systems that produce steam or forms of energy such as heat, as well as electricity, for use primarily within a building or complex of buildings;

(8) energy conservation measures that provide long-term operating cost reductions.

(b) "Guaranteed energy savings contract" means a contract for the evaluation and recommendations of energy conservation measures, and for one or more energy conservation measures. The contract must provide that all payments, except obligations on termination of the contract before its expiration, are to be made over time, but not to exceed ten years from the date of final installation, and the savings are guaranteed to the extent necessary to make payments for the systems.

(c) "Qualified provider" means a person or business experienced in the design, implementation, and installation of energy conservation measures. A qualified provider to whom the contract is awarded shall give a sufficient bond to the municipality for its faithful performance.

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a municipality may enter into a guaranteed energy savings contract with a qualified provider to significantly reduce energy or operating costs.

Before entering into a contract under this subdivision, the municipality shall provide published notice of the meeting in which it proposes to award the contract, the names of the parties to the proposed contract, and the contract's purpose.

Before installation of equipment, modification, or remodeling, the qualified provider shall first issue a report, summarizing estimates of all costs of installations, modifications, or remodeling, including costs of design, engineering, installation, maintenance, repairs, or debt service, and estimates of the amounts by which energy or operating costs will be reduced.

A guaranteed energy savings contract that includes a written guarantee that savings will meet or exceed the cost of energy conservation measures is not subject to competitive bidding requirements of section 471.345 or other law or city charter. The contract is not subject to section [123B.52](#).

A municipality may enter into a guaranteed energy savings contract with a qualified provider if, after review of the report, it finds that the amount it would spend on the energy conservation measures recommended in the report is not likely to

exceed the amount to be saved in energy and operation costs over ten years from the date of installation if the recommendations in the report were followed, and the qualified provider provides a written guarantee that the energy or operating cost savings will meet or exceed the costs of the system. The guaranteed energy savings contract may provide for payments over a period of time, not to exceed ten years.

A municipality may enter into an installment payment contract for the purchase and installation of energy conservation measures. The contract must provide for payments of not less than one-tenth of the price to be paid within two years from the date of the first operation, and the remaining costs to be paid monthly, not to exceed a ten-year term from the date of the first operation.

Guaranteed energy savings contracts may extend beyond the fiscal year in which they become effective. The municipality shall include in its annual appropriations measure for each later fiscal year any amounts payable under guaranteed energy savings contracts during the year. Failure of a municipality to make such an appropriation does not affect the validity of the guaranteed energy savings contract or the municipality's obligations under the contracts.

Subd. 14. **Damage awards.** In any action brought challenging the validity of a municipal contract under this section, the court shall not award, as any part of its judgment, damages, or attorney's fees, but may award an unsuccessful bidder the costs of preparing an unsuccessful bid.

Subd. 15. **Cooperative purchasing.** A municipality may contract for the purchase of supplies, materials, or equipment without regard to the competitive bidding requirements of this section if the purchase is through a national municipal association's purchasing alliance or cooperative created by a joint powers agreement that purchases items from more than one source on the basis of competitive bids or competitive quotations.

HIST: 1969 c 934 s 1; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1973 c 226 s 1,2; 1974 c 510 s 1; 1977 c 182 s 1-3; 1980 c 462 s 4; 1983 c 42 s 1-3; 1983 c 301 s 211; 1984 c 413 s 1; 1985 c 172 s 129; 1Sp1985 c 13 s 347; 1986 c 350 s 1,2; 1986 c 444; 1988 c 409 s 1; 1988 c 689 art 2 s 268; 1989 c 9 s 3; 1989 c 352 s 19,25; 1990 c 391 art 8 s 51; 1990 c 541 s 26,29; 1990 c 549 s 1; 1992 c 380 s 4-6; 1998 c 386 art 2 s 93; 1998 c 397 art 11 s 3; 1999 c 13 s 1; 2000 c 328 s 2-4